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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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October 28, 2003

JOHN CONYERS, JR., Michigan  
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The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner  
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Sensenbrenner:

I am writing to request that the Committee recognize a congressional resolution condemning religiously intolerant remarks and calling on the President to clearly censure and reassign Lieutenant General Boykin for his religiously intolerant remarks. Like so many of my fellow Americans and allies abroad, I was outraged by the intolerant and intemperate remarks made by Army Lieutenant General William Boykin, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence and War-Fighting Support. Because such comments not only insult our allies and our own Muslim citizens, but undermine our war against terrorism, I believe it is imperative that the Congress condemn these remarks and the Administration clearly censure and reassign General Boykin outside of his current sensitive position. I respectfully request that the Committee recognize a congressional resolution to this effect.

The litany of religiously intolerant remarks made by General Boykin while in uniform at various religious institutions includes the following:

Islamic extremists hate the United States because "we're a Christian nation;"

"Our spiritual enemy will only be defeated if we come against them in the name of Jesus;"

President Bush "is in the White House because God put him there;"

"I knew that my God was a real God, and [the Muslim God] was an idol;" and

"The enemy that has come against our nation is a spiritual enemy" named Satan.

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner

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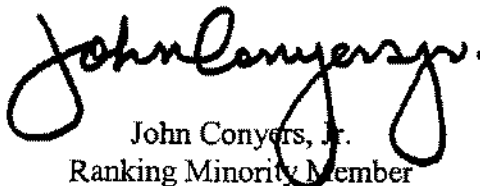
It is important to remember that the position currently held by Lieutenant General Boykin as Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence and War-Fighting Support requires him to interact routinely with Muslims from all over the world. Such remarks by a high-ranking military official act to undermine the war on terrorism by insulting Muslim allies of the United States and Muslim citizens of the United States, including those Muslim citizens in the United States Armed Forces. More importantly, such religiously intolerant remarks have impaired the image of the United States worldwide and threaten to endanger United States forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

President Bush has recently criticized Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad for his anti-Semitic comments by telling him that his remarks were "wrong and divisive." While these criticisms are to be applauded, the Administration must show the world that it is willing to condemn all religiously intolerant remarks, regardless of who made them, and especially when they occur within our own military.

The fact that an Inspector General review has been ordered does not in any way alter the need for our resolution. Regardless of whether or not the remarks violated the Code of Military Conduct, it is incumbent upon us to condemn these irresponsible remarks.

I therefore respectfully request that the Committee recognize a congressional resolution which acts to condemn all religiously intolerant remarks and to call on the President to censure and reassign General Boykin for his religiously intolerant remarks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Conyers, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Minority Member